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The industry, commerce, and social organization of men in the Stone Age are inferred from a variety of evidence, and form the subject of an interesting chapter. The care which they evidently took of the wounded reflects favorably both on their kindness and skill. A chapter on fortifications concludes with an excellent summary of Dr. Schliemann's investigations on the site of ancient Troy.

In handling such a mass of material a few errors naturally creep in. It is not correct to say (p. 21) that "the mounds of North America contain none but copper implements and ornaments," as ornaments of gold, silver, and meteoric iron are not unfrequent. So (on p. 76) the writer says that the ancient canoes "must have been worked by means of oars," and seems surprised too at the absence of rowlocks. Of course, paddles, not oars, were the means of propulsion. It is difficult to perceive what he means by this extraordinary passage on p. 219 — "The most ancient settlements of Malabar contain iron tridents, and Genesius (*sic*) dates their use from before the deluge. It is, therefore, surprising to find that some races remained for an illimitable time ignorant of the way to procure a metal of such great utility." This sounds like eighteenth century science. But these are slight blemishes on a book of singular merit in its composition and unusually beautifully printed and illustrated.

Alaskana, or Alaska in Descriptive and Legendary Poems. By BUSHROD W. JAMES. 368 p. Illustrated. Philadelphia, Porter & Coates.

IF Professor James had not had the unfortunate idea that he is a poet, he would have written a book of considerable interest, as he has visited various localities in Alaska and has read several works about that country. As it is, he gives us 360 solid pages of verses in the meter of "Hiawatha," with "some slight improvements," as the announcement of the publishers modestly puts it, describing the natives, the scenery, the seals, the sunsets, and the stories, which he has by the above means found out about.

It would be unfair not to supply a sample of his poetry, which we select at random from his canto or fytte on the Alaskan native tribes: —

The Orarians take precedence,
Classed as Esquimaux or Innuits,
Dark Creoles, and sturdy Aleuts —
These hold close along the sea-board,
Claiming nearly all the coast-line
And the islands near adjoining; —
Save where here and there the Indians
Have and hold small coast possessions
Which they won by force or cunning.

Really, was it worth while to put capital letters at the head of these lines? And are there people who will read 360 pages of such? If so, human nature has certain qualities of patience or kindness for which we did not give it sufficient credit.

There are a number of photogravures in the volume, very nicely done, and, as far as type and paper go, it is a creditable specimen of the publisher's taste, and looks as if it was intended to be a "Holiday book."

Experiments Arranged for Students in General Chemistry. By EDGAR F. SMITH and HARRY F. KELLAR. Philadelphia, T. Blakiston, Son & Co. 8°. 57 p., with alternate leaves blank for notes.

THIS series of exercises, based on the authors' experience with their own classes, is intended to accompany any convenient textbook of inorganic chemistry; but reference is made to that of Richter. Beginning with fundamental operations (as with blow-pipe, glass tubing, balance, and graduates) and general principles (as the difference between chemical and physical change) the course proceeds to the study of hydrogen and other non-metals in Part I., followed by the metals in Part II. Quantitative relations are well presented in the experimental work and stoichiometrical

CALENDAR OF SOCIETIES.

Philosophical Society, Washington.

Nov. 12.—J. P. Iddings, Geology of the Crazy Mountains; H. W. Turner, Lavas of Mount Inghalls; W. H. Dall, Dates of Publication of Conrad's Monographs of Tertiary Fossils.

Anthropological Society, Washington.

Nov. 15.—Warren K. Moorehead, Xenia, O., Singular Copper Objects from Ancient Mounds in Ohio; James Mooney, Lester F. Ward, W. H. Holmes, W. Hallet Phillips, W. H. Babcock, and Frank Baker, Geographic Nomenclature of the District and Vicinity, a Symposium.

Society of Natural History, Boston.

Nov. 16.—Warren Upham, The Origin of Drumlins; Professors Shaler and Davis, On the Origin of Drumlins.

THE Civil Service Commission will hold examinations on Nov. 29 to fill two vacancies in the Quartermaster-General's Office, one in the position of assistant civil engineer, at a salary of \$1,200, the other in the position of architectural draftsman, at a salary of \$1,400. An application blank and information as to the subjects of the examination may be obtained of the U. S. Civil Service Commission, Washington, D.C.

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Ripans Tabules cure dyspepsia.

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For Exchange.—"The Birds of Kansas."—Goss, for Gray's Anatomy, or Medical Dictionary. Must be in good condition. Address, J. H. SIMPSON, Buchtel College, Akron, Ohio.

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The American Geologist for 1893.

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